ULTIMATE X-MEN

ISSUE 7

RETURN TO WEAPON X

MARVEL COMICS

DIRECT EDITION

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ADAM KUBERT

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WEAPON X HEADQUARTERS, FINLAND:
DANGER
KEEP OUT
X3

HOLY MOTHER OF --!
LINKLATER'S DOWN!
TEN OUT OF TEN FOR OBSERVATION, IDIOT! JUST HURRY UP AND CAP THE LITTLE RUNT BEFORE HE --
GENTLEMEN, THIS IS DR. CORNELIUS. I KNOW WE'VE JUST LOST THREE MEN, BUT I MUST REMIND YOU THIS IS STILL A RECOVERY MISSION.
I'VE INVESTED TOO MUCH TIME AND MONEY IN THIS YOUNG MAN TO LET ONE OF YOU TESTOSTERONE ADDICTS PUT A BULLET IN HIS HEAD FOR SOMETHING STUPID, LIKE REVENGE.
SHOOT TO WOUND! I REPEAT -- SHOOT TO WOUND!
DEAR GOD.
IS THAT REALLY THE SAME LITTLE GERMAN BOY WHO WAS STILL WETTING HIS BUNK A FEW MONTHS AGO?

HIT THE BRAKES!

WHAT HAPPENED? WE'VE LOST VISUAL --
HE DISAPPEARED, SIR. OUR CRAZY, LITTLE RUNAWAY JUST COMMITTED SUICIDE.

SUICIDE? ARE YOU PEOPLE HIGH? NIGHTCRAWLER'S A TELEPORTER, YOU PACK OF FREAKIN' MORONS.

AM I THE ONLY SINNER IN THIS OUTFIT WHO EVEN READS THESE FILES?

JUST REMEMBER WE NEED HIM BREATHING, COLONEL WRAITH.
CORNELIUS, YOU GIVE ME ONE MORE WORD OF ADVICE AND I SWEAR TO GOD I'M GONNA SLIP POWDERED-GLASS IN YOUR NEXT CAPPUCCINO...

I'VE BEEN NAILING MUTANTS FOR WEAPON X SINCE BEFORE YOU DISCOVERED CORDUROY, COLLEGE-BOY. NOW SHUT UP AND WATCH A MASTER AT WORK.

CONGRATULATIONS, SOLDIER. YOU REALIZE YOU'RE THE FIRST MUTIE SINCE WOLVERINE TO GET THIS FAR OUTSIDE THE COMPLEX?
TELEPORTING OVER ANY KINDA DISTANCE REALLY TAKES IT OUT OF YOU, HUH? ESPECIALLY IF YOU DO SOMETHING STUPID LIKE TRY TO TELEPORT A SNOWMOBILE AT THE SAME TIME.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, YOU UGLY, LITTLE DUNG-TICK? YOU DEAF OR SOMETHING?
OH, I GET IT: YOU'RE WONDERING IF YOU'VE STILL GOT ENOUGH ENERGY TO REACH THAT PASSENGER PLANE?
SURE, IT MIGHT BE TWO MILES UP, BUT YOU'VE TELEPORTED THAT KIND OF DISTANCE IN THE PAST. WHY SHOULDN'T YOU BE ABLE TO DO IT WHEN YOU REALLY NEED TO, HUH?
"A PILLOW, A BLANKET AND YOUR FIRST HOT COFFEE IN OVER EIGHT MONTHS ARE JUST A HEARTBEAT AWAY, KID.
"YOU COULD CHANGE YOUR LIFE FOREVER IF ONLY YOU HAD IT IN YOU FOR ONE, LAST LEAP..."
TAKE HIM BACK TO BASE AND BURN THE SOLES OF HIS FEET.
WHEN HE CAN'T FEEL PAIN ANYMORE, MAKE HIM WATCH YOU TORTURE THE GIRL IN THE NEXT CELL WHO SINGS FOR HIM AT NIGHT.
DISCIPLINE'S BEEN WAY TOO SLACK HERE LATELY, BOYS AND GIRLS. IT'S TIME TO SEND A MESSAGE TO ANYONE ELSE WITH AN ESCAPE PLAN HIDDEN UP THEIR BUTT.
SOME OF THESE ANIMALS ARE STARTING TO FORGET WHO THEY BELONG TO.
S.H.I.E.L.D.

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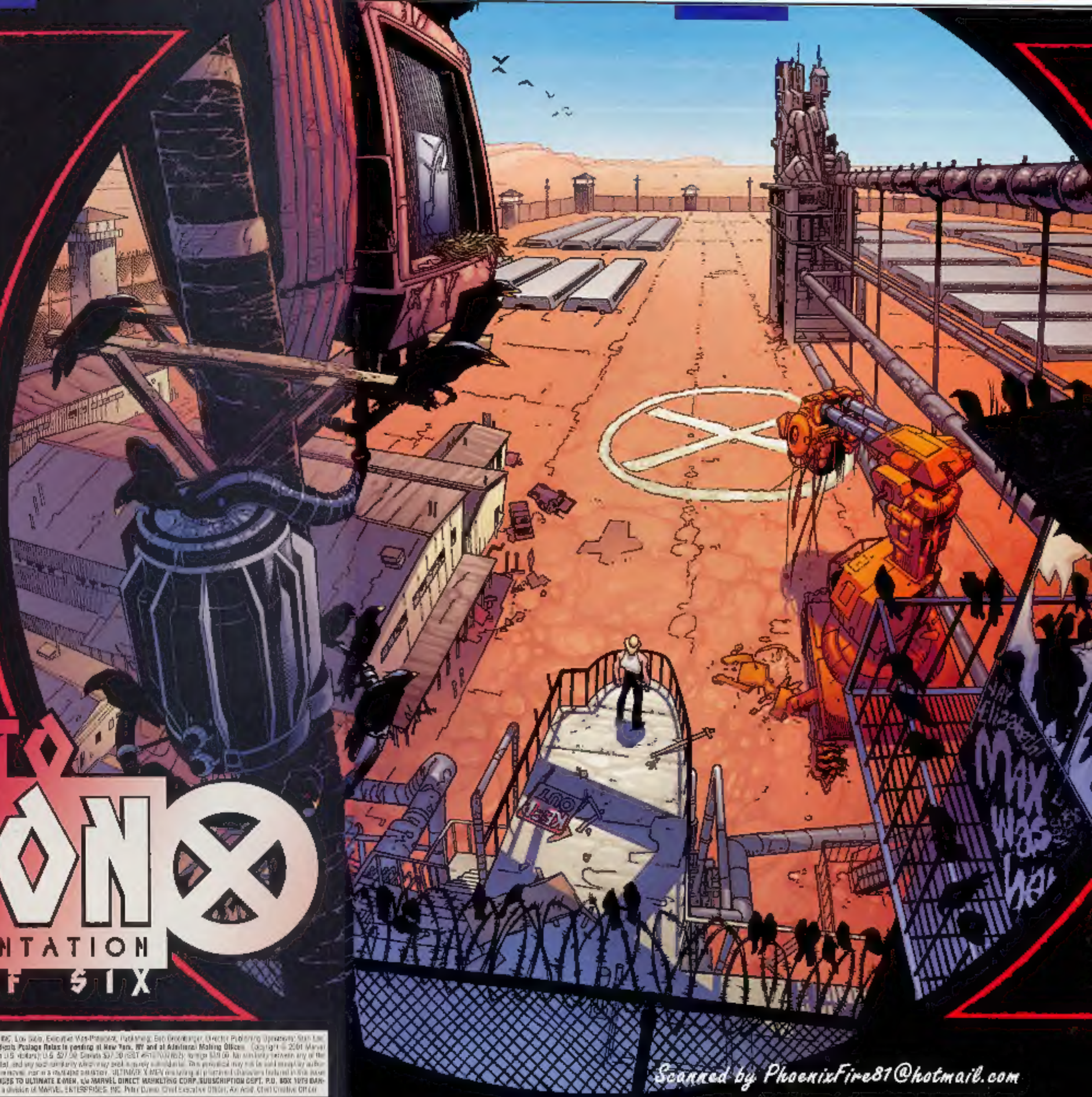
RETURN TO WEAPON X

A STAN LEE PRESENTATION

PART ONE OF SIX



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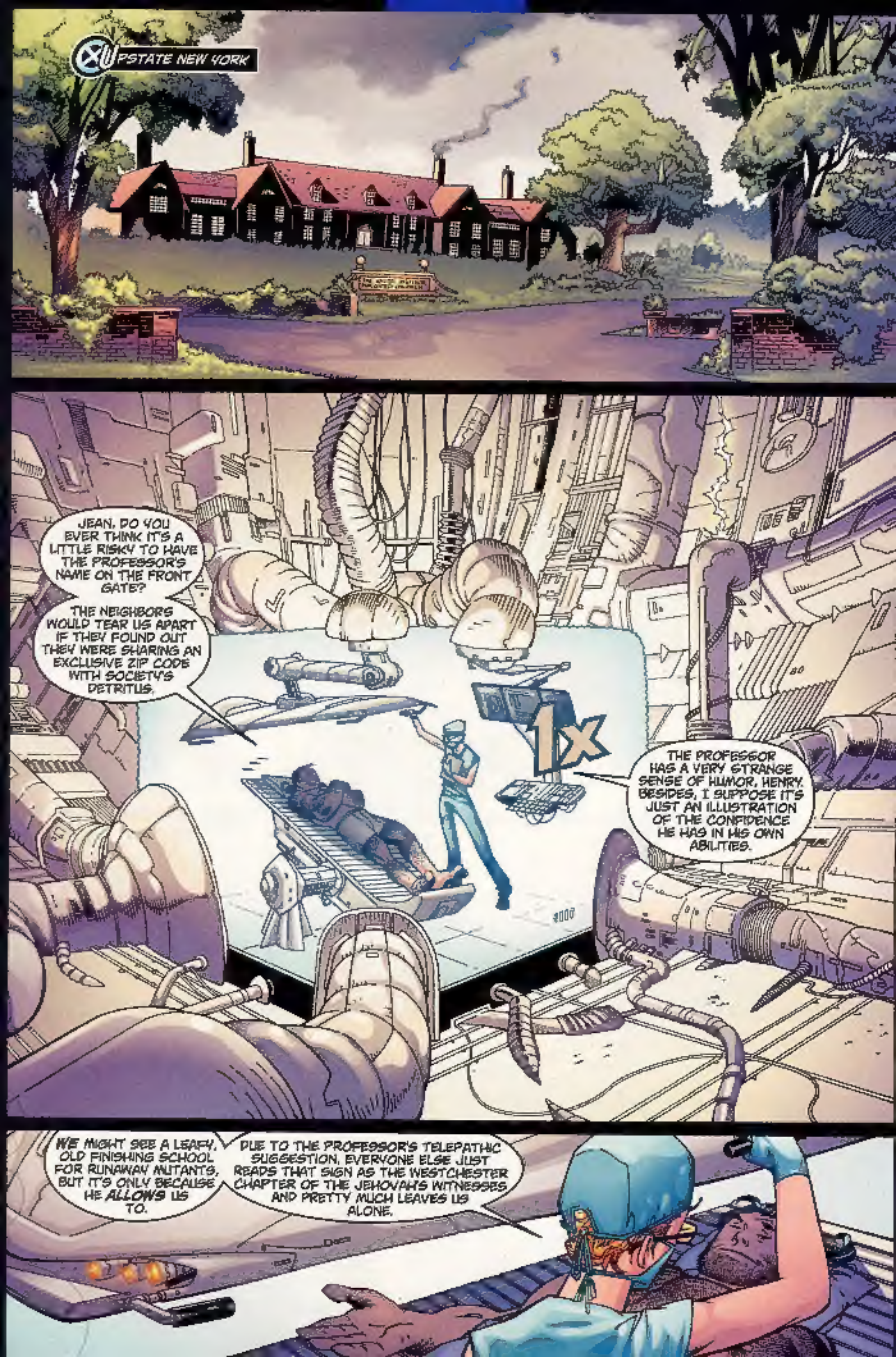
I GUESS YOUR INFORMATION WAS A LITTLE OUT OF DATE, PROFESSOR. SMELLS TO ME LIKE WEAPON X MOVED OUT OF ARIZONA CLOSE TO SIX WEEKS AGO NOW.

BUT THAT'S THREE REALLOCATIONS IN AS MANY MONTHS, WOLVERINE, AND SIX DIFFERENT ADDRESSES IN THE TWO YEARS SINCE YOU ESCAPED FROM THEIR CANADIAN FACILITY.
WHY WOULD THE WORLD'S MOST FEARED BLACK OPS UNIT PUT THEMSELVES THROUGH THIS KIND OF INCONVENIENCE?

WHO KNOWS? MAYBE THEY WERE WORRIED ABOUT NIGHTTIME RAIDS BY MAGNETO'S MUTANT BROTHERHOOD. MAYBE THEY WERE SCARED I WAS COMIN' BACK.
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE PRESIDENT JUST KEPT HIS WORD AND CLOSED DOWN ALL STATE-FUNDED SCHEMES WHERE MUTANTS WERE BEING ROUTINELY ABUSED?

NOT A CHANCE, CHUCK.
THERE'S JUST TOO MANY FINANCIAL INTERESTS AT STAKE FOR ONE MAN TO PULL THE PLUG ON SHIELD'S PREMIER COUNTER-TERRORISM DIVISION.
I DONE 4 HUNDRED MUTIES AGAINS THIS WALL!!!! HAHAHAHA!

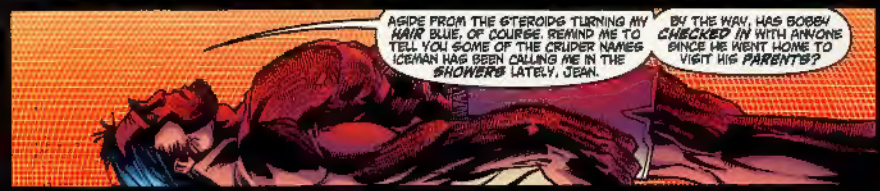
YOUR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF MIGHT HAVE GONE ALL PC WHEN IT COMES TO MUTANT RELATIONS, BUT THERE'S STILL A HUNDRED NATO BASES OUT THERE JOHN WRAITH COULD BE OPERATING FROM.
IT'S THE MOST AWFUL THING I CAN THINK OF. TERRIFIED YOUNG MUTANTS KIDNAPPED AND BRUTALIZED UNTIL THEY REGARD THEMSELVES AS LITTLE MORE THAN LIVING WEAPONS.
IN MANY WAYS, WEAPON X IS THE COMPLETE ANTITHESIS OF EVERYTHING I STAND FOR. I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT KIND OF MEMORIES THE ARIZONA BASE MUST STIMULATE IN YOU, WOLVERINE.
BAD ONES, CHARLEY-BOY.
THE ONLY KIND OF MEMORIES I GOT LEFT.

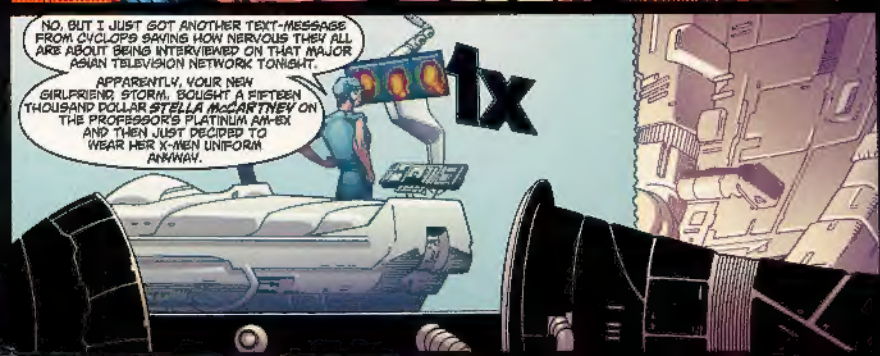

UPSTATE NEW YORK
JEAN, DO YOU EVER THINK IT'S A LITTLE RISKY TO HAVE THE PROFESSOR'S NAME ON THE FRONT GATE?
THE NEIGHBORS WOULD TEAR US APART IF THEY FOUND OUT THEY WERE SHARING AN EXCLUSIVE ZIP CODE WITH SOCIETY'S DETRITUS.
1x
THE PROFESSOR HAS A VERY STRANGE SENSE OF HUMOR, HENRY. BESIDES, I SUPPOSE IT'S JUST AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE CONFIDENCE HE HAS IN HIS OWN ABILITIES.
WE MIGHT SEE A LEAFY, OLD FINISHING SCHOOL FOR RUNAWAY MUTANTS, BUT IT'S ONLY BECAUSE HE ALLOWS US TO.
DUE TO THE PROFESSOR'S TELEPATHIC SUGGESTION, EVERYONE ELSE JUST READS THAT SIGN AS THE WESTCHESTER CHAPTER OF THE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES AND PRETTY MUCH LEAVES US ALONE.

ANY JOINT PAIN OR EYE TROUBLE SINCE YOU COMPLETED THAT COURSE OF ANTIBIOTICS I PRESCRIBED, MR. McCOY?

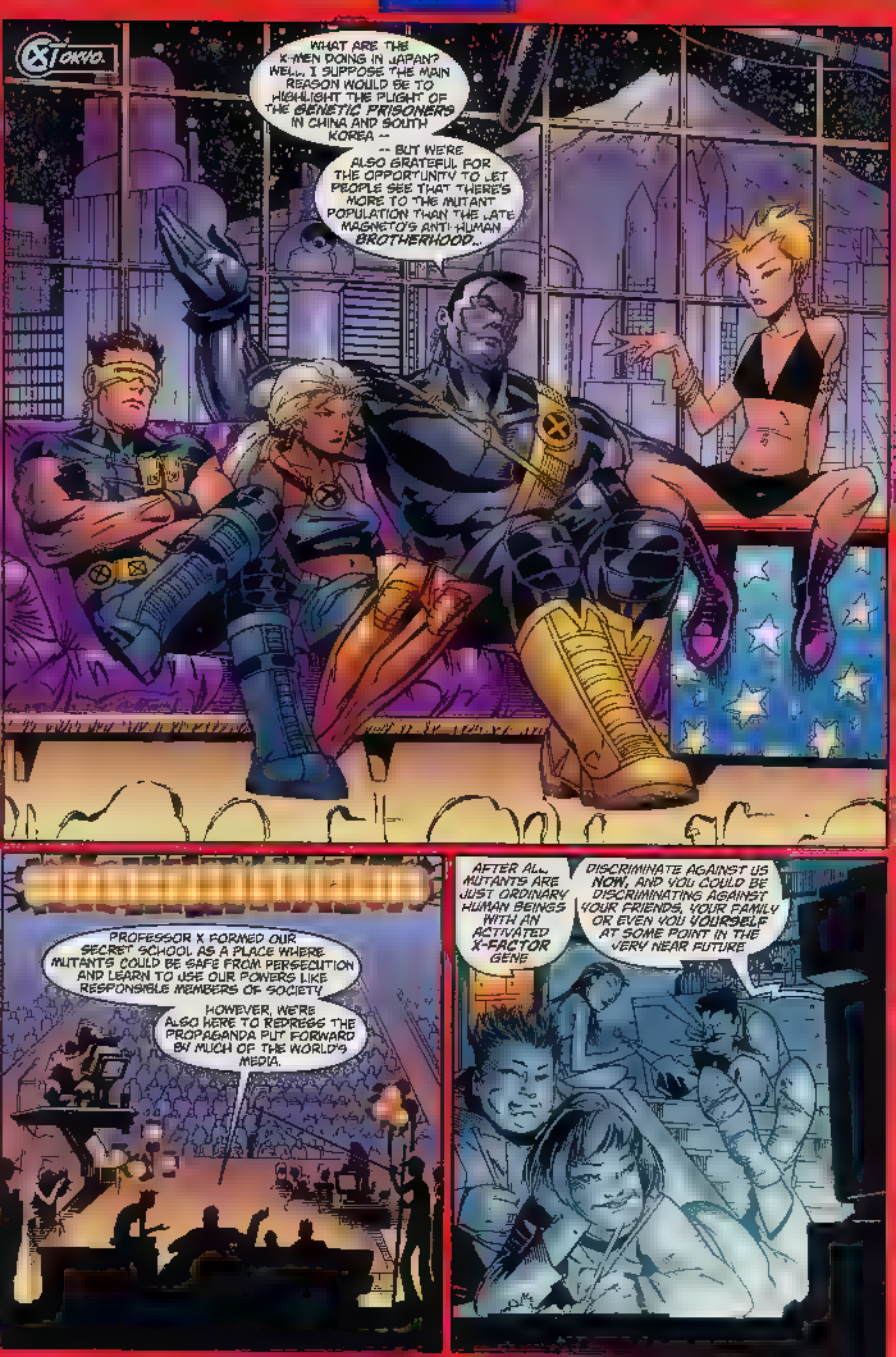
NONE WHATSOEVER, MARVEL GIRL.
DOES THIS MEAN THAT MY INTERNALS ARE HAPPY ENOUGH WITH THOSE KANGAROO AND GORILLA ORGANS YOU INTRODUCED THEM TO RECENTLY?

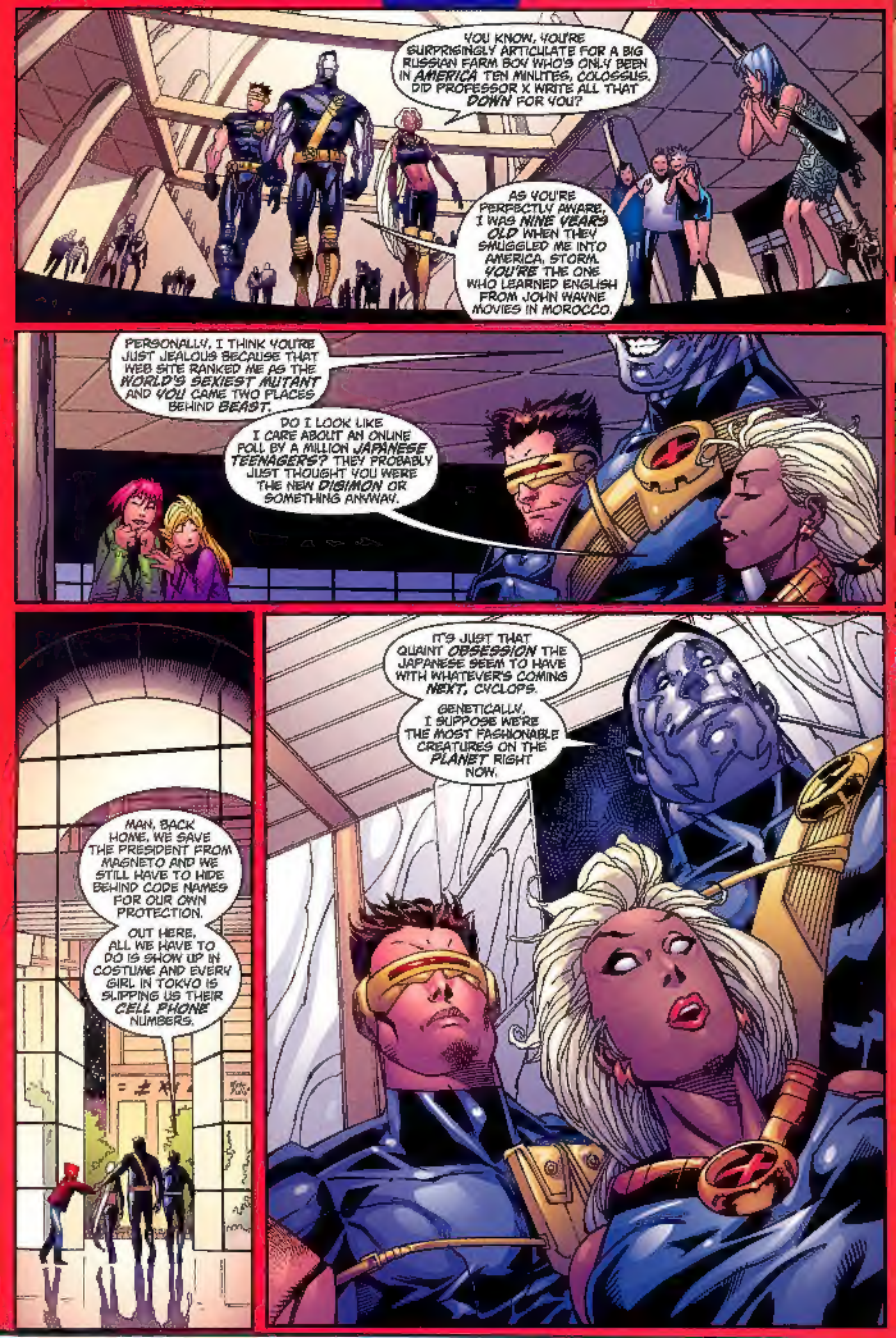
WELL, THE URINALYSIS WAS CLEAR AND YOUR LYMPHOCYTES APPEAR TO BE STABILIZING, SO EVERY INDICATION IS THAT THEY'RE GETTING ON FAMOUSLY.
ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, I'D SAY MY FIRST FORAY INTO THE WORLD OF TRANSPLANT SURGERY WAS VIRTUALLY TEXTBOOK-PERFECT.


ASIDE FROM THE STEROIDS TURNING MY HAIR BLUE, OF COURSE. REMIND ME TO TELL YOU SOME OF THE CRUDER NAMES ICEMAN HAS BEEN CALLING ME IN THE SHOWERS LATELY, JEAN.
BY THE WAY, HAS BOBBY CHECKED IN WITH ANYONE SINCE HE WENT HOME TO VISIT HIS PARENTS?


NO. BUT I JUST GOT ANOTHER TEXT-MESSAGE FROM CYCLOPS SAYING HOW NERVOUS THEY ALL ARE ABOUT BEING INTERVIEWED ON THAT MAJOR ASIAN TELEVISION NETWORK TONIGHT.
APPARENTLY, YOUR NEW GIRLFRIEND, STORM, BOUGHT A FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLAR STELLA McCARTNEY ON THE PROFESSOR'S PLATINUM AMEX AND THEN JUST DECIDED TO WEAR HER X-MEN UNIFORM ANYWAY.
1x

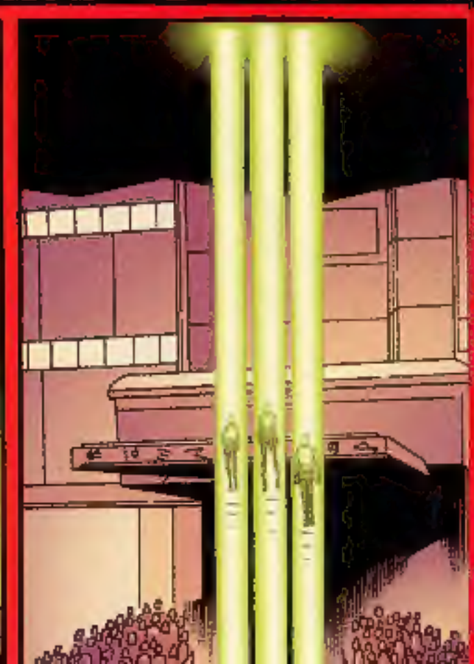
SERIOUSLY?
OH, YES
I'M ALL FOR THE PROFESSOR'S PLAN TO GET THE MEDIA ON OUR SIDE, BUT I WISH THEY'D GIVE US AIR TIME IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE SOMETIME.
CYCLOPS BEING GONE MEANS I'VE NOBODY TO PLAY BACKGAMMON WITH WHEN I WAKE UP AT THREE AM WITH ONE OF MY PSYCHIC MIGRAINES.
AT LEAST WOLVERINE'S SUPPOSED TO BE COMING BACK TONIGHT
GREAT. GO WE ALL GET TO SPEND A FEW DAYS WITH A SOCIOPATH WHO LIKES TO LEAVE THE TOILET SEAT UP AND MAKES THE ENTIRE SCHOOL SMELL LIKE AN ASHTRAY
I'M SORRY BUT THE FACT THAT HE INFILTRATED THIS GROUP ON A MISSION TO KILL CHARLES XAVIER ISN'T SOMETHING I'M WILLING TO FORGET, EVER.
ONCE THE PROFESSOR HELPS HIM SORT OUT THIS WEAPON X BUSINESS, I NEVER WANT TO SEE THAT CREEP'S FACE AGAIN


X TOKYO.
WHAT ARE THE X-MEN DOING IN JAPAN? WELL... I SUPPOSE THE MAIN REASON WOULD BE TO HIGHLIGHT THE PLIGHT OF THE GENETIC PRISONERS IN CHINA AND SOUTH KOREA --
-- BUT WE'RE ALSO GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO LET PEOPLE SEE THAT THERE'S MORE TO THE MUTANT POPULATION THAN THE LATE MAGNETO'S ANTI-HUMAN BROTHERHOOD..
PROFESSOR X FORMED OUR SECRET SCHOOL AS A PLACE WHERE MUTANTS COULD BE SAFE FROM PERSECUTION AND LEARN TO USE OUR POWERS LIKE RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.
HOWEVER, WE'RE ALSO HERE TO REPRESS THE PROPAGANDA PUT FORWARD BY MUCH OF THE WORLD'S MEDIA.
AFTER ALL, MUTANTS ARE JUST ORDINARY HUMAN BEINGS WITH AN ACTIVATED X-FACTOR GENE
DISCRIMINATE AGAINST US NOW, AND YOU COULD BE DISCRIMINATING AGAINST YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR FAMILY OR EVEN YOU YOURSELF AT SOME POINT IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE

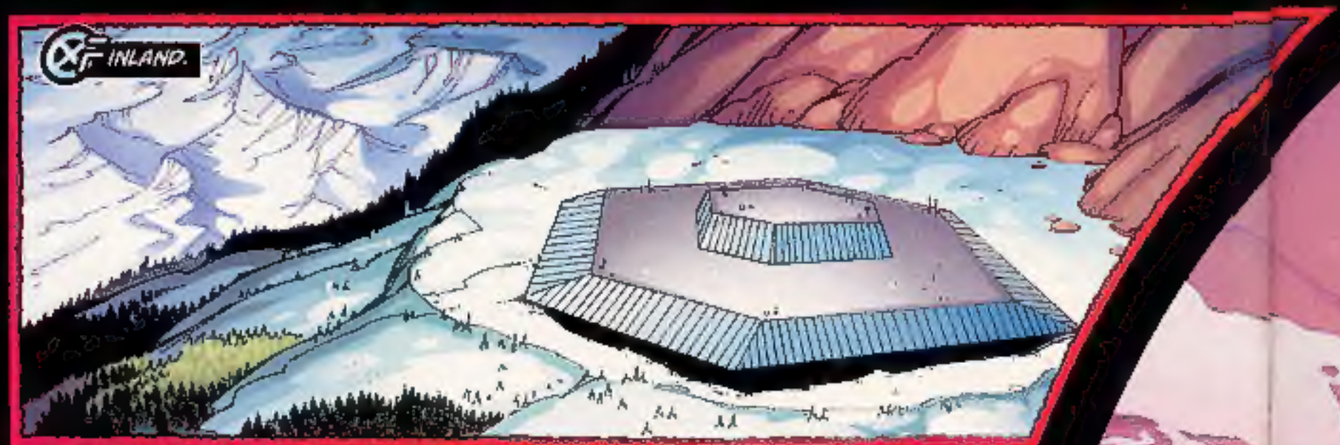

YOU KNOW, YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY ARTICULATE FOR A BIG RUSSIAN FARM BOY WHO'S ONLY BEEN IN AMERICA TEN MINUTES, COLOSSUS. DID PROFESSOR X WRITE ALL THAT DOWN FOR YOU?
AS YOU'RE PERFECTLY AWARE, I WAS NINE YEARS OLD WHEN THEY SMUGGLED ME INTO AMERICA, STORM. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO LEARNED ENGLISH FROM JOHN WAYNE MOVIES IN MOROCCO.
PERSONALLY, I THINK YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS BECAUSE THAT WEB SITE RANKED ME AS THE WORLD'S SEXIEST MUTANT AND YOU CAME TWO PLACES BEHIND BEAST.
DO I LOOK LIKE I CARE ABOUT AN ONLINE POLL BY A MILLION JAPANESE TEENAGERS? THEY PROBABLY JUST THOUGHT YOU WERE THE NEW DIGIMON OR SOMETHING ANYWAY.
MAN, BACK HOME, WE SAVE THE PRESIDENT FROM MAGNETO AND WE STILL HAVE TO HIDE BEHIND CODE NAMES FOR OUR OWN PROTECTION.
OUT HERE, ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS SHOW UP IN COSTUME AND EVERY GIRL IN TOKYO IS SLIPPING US THEIR CELL PHONE NUMBERS.
IT'S JUST THAT QUAINT OBSESSION THE JAPANESE SEEM TO HAVE WITH WHATEVER'S COMING NEXT, CYCLOPS.
GENETICALLY, I SUPPOSE WE'RE THE MOST FASHIONABLE CREATURES ON THE PLANET RIGHT NOW.

EASY WITH THOSE OPTIC BLASTS, SCOTT. THESE ARE PROBABLY THE ONLY SIX HUNDRED PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO ACTUALLY LIKE US, REMEMBER?
EVEN SO, I STILL HAVE A TENDENCY TO ASSOCIATE VERY LARGE CROWDS WITH ANGRY LYNCH MOBS, ORORO.
CYCLOPS TO BLACKBIRD. BEGIN VERTICAL DESCENT AND LOSE THE CLOAK WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, GIRL.

YOU OKAY, PETER? YOUR FACE LOOKS LIKE A LITTLE, UH, LESS SHINY THAN IT USUALLY DOES.
ME? OH, I'M FINE, STORM.



PROBABLY JUST A BIT MORE JET-LAGGED THAN I ORIGINALLY THOUGHT.



"-- PLUS SETTLE SOME OLD SCORES AT THE SAME TIME."

TO BE CONTINUED!